



The Women's Affairs Technical Committees

Summary Report for the period of

January 1st. 2010 - December 31st. 2010



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Introduction:

This is a narrative summary report covering the period of January 2010 until 31 December 2010. The objective of this report is to give a general overview of the work during 2010 in summary and concise activities. At the same time, there have been other reports presented for specific projects and programs.

General Context:

Following part of the summary report presents the context on which programs, projects and activities were implemented during 2010. Firstly, it gives a general view of some demographic statistics. Secondly, it presents a brief political overview of the situation, and thirdly it briefly presents briefly some of the main actors that affected the life of Palestinian women during 2010.

General Demographic situation:

Data from the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) shows that the population of the Palestinian Territory is young; the percentage of individuals in the age group (0- 14) was 41.3% of the total population in the Palestinian Territory at end year of 2010, of which 39.4% in the West Bank and 44.4% in Gaza Strip. As for the elderly population aged (65 years and over) was 3.0% of the total population in Palestinian Territory at end year of 2010.

In reference to household data and according to the same source (PCBS), 85.8% of all private households in the Palestinian Territory were nuclear households in 2010. The extended households in the Palestinian Territory represented 11.0% of private households in 2010.

Political Situation

During 2010 the occupied Palestinian Territory experienced no progress on the political level in what concerns Peace talks. On the other side, the Palestinian Legislative Council continued paralyzed, and could not assemble. Additionally, municipal elections were cancelled, and PA related Minister of Local Government, as well as politicians, saw that unity between Fatah and Hamas should be gained previous to any elections, as well as the end to the blockade imposed on Gaza.

Moreover, 2010 has been a year of destruction of houses, violent attacks on civilians and political pressure in Jerusalem. It was notably the brutal measures taken by Israel in Jerusalem as seen and reported by Human Rights organizations.

At the international level, the International Solidarity Movement has shown more organized work, and more solidarity is seen on the ground especially in the villages and places where the wall is being built. At another level, international solidarity was made obvious and lucid



when Israel decided to attack one of the Gaza Freedom Flotilla killing nine people. At the same time, during the same year a certain level of tension was experienced on the borders with Lebanon.

Within the same line, during 2010 Palestinian society hosted almost 150 individuals from all over the world who came to attend the International Educational Forum. The forum was inaugurated with one of the largest manifestations of 2010, as approximately 5000 people marched under slogans such as of the Right to Education, Education for All, Education for Social Change and Education for Liberation. This forum has left a great impact for those who attended it, and showed the importance of changing experiences among Palestinian activists, Human Rights organizations, and academicians, with others in the world.

However, the motionless state at the political level, affects work of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) , at the planning and implementing of our work. At the one hand it is supposed that an independent Palestinian State will be declared. Therefore, Palestinian organizations and society at large see the necessity to focus their efforts on that direction, and on the other hand, the Israeli measures and attempts to block any effort towards the declaration of the state are in one way or the other impacting the work CSO.

Women lives within Patriarchy and Military Occupation

In an environment where no substantive changes at the political level, and no Peace achieved, women are left to experience both the violence of the occupier and the effect of a patriarchal society. On one hand, women living in villages and cities surrounded by Jewish Settlements, the wall and checkpoints can't feel peace or security. On the other hand Palestinian society has not been able to free itself from the old laws that govern the daily life of the society and especially of women. As for example, the Criminal Law enforced until today is an old which clearly violates the life of women and allows men a great control over her body, sexuality and movement. The same is with the Family law (known as the Personal Status Law) which goes back to hundreds of years and does not see women as equal creatures and citizens as men.

WATC see that the level of security, peace and protection experienced by Palestinian women is not enough to ensure her well being. This situation makes women feel less secure; less self-confident therefore worried about issues concerning her own security and of her family. In addition to that, the levels of poverty are increasing, and if we look at poverty as one of the worst forms of violence, then poverty is an essential factor for women not to feel secured and protected.



Narrative of WATC work during 2010 in summary

This part of the report is a narrative summary of the achievements and activities performed during 2010. According to its present strategic plan, WATC has chosen strategic objectives to achieve. What presents this summary is the work which is most directly relevant to these objectives.

One of the strategies used to enhance the capacity of women to claim their rights is performed through the empowerment of the Grassroots Women's Committees (GWCs). In this aspect WATC achieved the following during 2010:

❖ A needs assessment study was done so as to be able to support and empower GWCs according and based to their needs and interests. One study was done in Gaza and the other one in the West Bank. Seven GWCs participated in the study:

- Union of committees for Social Work
- Union of Palestinian women committees
- Union of Struggle Woman committees
- Union of Palestinian Working women committees
- Struggle of Women's Block
- Union of women's work committees
- Union of women's action committees

The report looked at the internal procedures of the GWCs to understand the level of communication, flow of information and other issues within the internal system of the GWCs. Also it looked at the external challenges the GWCs face such as dealing with the media, sustainability of their work, their relations with the community.

The report was able to recognize weaknesses and strengths of the GWCs, and it will help WATC to draw a plan and integrate the results in the new strategic planning so as to be able to respond correctly to the GWCs. WATC looks at the GWCs as the main activator of the women's movement, and is keen in supporting, embracing and empowering the GWCs.

The importance of this report is that it gave us an idea about the most pressing issues as seen by the women members of the GWCs. As for example, they asked to be given information about the theories of Feminism and feminist thought, information about social movements in other parts of the world. At the same time, they asked to be given advanced Training of Trainers (for those who already train and need to enhance their skills and information) and beginners Training of Trainers for those who are interested in acquiring the skills. Also, they asked WATC to look at them as trainers and be given part of the training that WATC undertakes.

At the same time, there have been capacity building for the leaders of the GWCs, as well as the middle cadre of the committees, in addition to women from CBos and other organizations. Table number one shows the main training undertaken during 2010 on this respect.



Table number 1
Training the Leaders of the Grassroots Women's Committees

Many trainings were given to the leaders of the GWCs, the middle cadre and other members. The following table shows in summary the trainings done :

Title of training	Length of training course	Number of Participants	About the participants
Training of Trainers	7 days (42 hours)	45	Leaders of the GWCs
Gender and Family Law	3 days (18 hours)	19	Leaders of the GWCs
Media Campaigns For Women's Rights	3 days (18 hours)	16	Leaders of the GWCs , and middle cadre
Integrating gender into Family Law and the Penal Code	2 days (12 hours)	20	Leaders of the GWCs , and Middle cadre
Participatory Leadership Leading to Choices	3 days (18 hours)	15	Leaders of the GWCs , and middle cadre, and Youth Leaders
The UN resolution 1325 using WATC's manual	4 days (24 hours)	50	Volunteers, members Of the GWCs,
Basics on gender concepts, Needs and Roles	3 days (18 hours)	50	Women on Community Based organizations

In addition to the trainings there were also 6 workshops on the Palestinian Bill of Rights, with the participation of the leaders, middle cadre, youth leaders and other women. In total 151 women participated on the workshops in the West Bank and Gaza. A legal consultant hired by WATC to make an analytical report on the Bill of Rights conducted and facilitated the workshops. In the workshops she presented the Bill of Rights. She also presented the results of the report and gave a vision on how the Bill of Rights can become a good mechanism to ensure that women's rights are integrated in the laws, and a mechanism to monitor those rights.

Additionally, there were 43 workshops/discussion tables on Political Participation of women, Participatory Leadership, Gender and Political Participation, and other related subjects. Members of the GWCs, community political leaders, youth leaders. workshops attended by



male and female members of organizations, In total the participants were 1,186 in the West Bank and Gaza.

Being WATC a coalition formed by the Grassroots Women's Committees, some organizations and some activists, it is obvious that the work with the grassroots is a vital part. WATC believes that the empowerment of the grassroots committees is the empowerment of the women's movement. Therefore, WATC knows that organized, conscious and aware grassroots committees means the advancement of the whole movement and can be a strong force to lobby and make women's rights a reality.

❖ During 2010 two campaigns were done through community participation specially with the youth sector. The first one was about Early Marriage, and was given the title :”no to marrying the young”. This campaign is part of the program “Youth as seeds of Change”, which is a program that empowers the youth to take participation and decisions on what campaigns to lead. The campaign's objective was to raise the society's awareness about the risks and effects of early marriage to the couple, their families and the society. Also, it aimed at raising the voice of the youth to refuse such practices. At the end of a series of activities, the participants on the campaign handed a letter and a petition to the Higher Legal Consultant of the President and asked him to give it to the president on their behalf. As part of the campaign 13 workshops were conducted to discuss the problem and risks of early marriage, as well as 7 shows of a film that discuss the problem of early marriage.

❖ The second campaign was part of the program “from youth to youth; empowering the young for social change”. Based on a participatory methodology the young participants chose a theme to work on their on communities. This year they chose “dropping off school”. During the campaign 150 awareness meetings were conducted in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In addition 50 workshops to discuss the effect of the wall and checkpoints to the rights of education were organized. In total, almost 900 individuals (young female and male students, activist, women, society leaders) participated in the campaign.

❖ In addition to that, WATC carried out several training for official staff of the ministries. WATC is known by its capacity to empower and enhance the knowledge and skills of organizations and ministries on subjects such as gender mainstreaming, gender based planning, reading the statistics from a gender perspective and using them to formulate actions plans, and other subjects. However, during 2010 not only official staff of the ministries were given training but also other organizations. Table number 2 shows the different sectors that benefited from the organizations' programs on training. It also shows the subjects of the training, which are part of a whole program, or as it also happens a need recognized by certain group and ask WATC to fulfill this need. As for the training of the official staff of the ministers, WATC is seen by the ministries as a capacity builder for their staff, and the cooperation between both sides is stable and strong one.

❖ Other trainings : testing a manual on Combating Violence against women, which was originally prepared by the Palestinian Center for Research. The manual was tested with youth organizations, women organizations and grassroots committee through the participation of one 100 individuals.



Table Number 2
Training given to Social Workers, Lawyers and Official Staff of the Ministries

Title of the Training	Number of participants	About the Participants	Length of Training ¹
Reading the statistics from a gender perspectives	70	Staff of ministries	5 days (30 hours)
Gender and the Bill of Rights	150	Social workers	3 days (18 hours)
How to do counseling for women suffering from domestic violence	20	Lawyers	3 days (18 hours)
How to do counseling for women suffering from domestic violence	20	Social workers	5 days (30 hours)
Practical training for Lawyers and Social workers on how to counsel and support women suffering from violence	60	Lawyers and Social Workers	10 practicing Days on Organizations that give the service to women
How to read the law from a gender perspective	20	Lawyers and Social Workers	3 days (18 hours)

❖ Editing and finalizing a manual of the United Nations Resolution 1325. The manual will be used to raise the awareness of the society and women specially, on the UN resolution 1325 and what it means to Palestinian women. In this regard, WATC believes that it is important to explore the different concepts embodied on the resolution and discuss those concepts so as to see how effective is the resolution, and to make the concepts familiar within the context. Within this line, 50 women members of the grassroots committees, volunteers of WATC, staff of other women's organizations were given a short course on 1325 consisting of 24 training hours. The participants were keen on learning about the UN resolution, and were even more interested on discussing the ways and tools necessary for women to be able to participate in the public life and enhance their activism on political participation so as to be able to affect the course of events.

❖ Empowering the youth : creating young leaders by empowering them on several skills and giving them the knowledge they need. One important module here is participatory leadership skills through exploring the different choices they have. And here the manual

¹ The length of training mentioned in the table is the length of training for each group, and most of the times each group is formed by 15-20 participants.



entitled *Leading to Choices* becomes essential on this trainings / encounters / meetings and workshops with the young leaders to be. Table number three shows the main training / capacity workshops given to the youth.

Table number 3

Training / capacity workshops given to the youth male and female participants :

Subject	Length of training
Communication Skills	18 hours
Reading the Laws from a gender perspective	21 hours
Human Rights and Gender	12 hours
Leadership skills	12 hours
Computer skills and Internet	60 hours
Participatory Leadership	30 hours
How to organize a campaign	12 hours
How to conduct focus groups	20
How to write the report of the focus group	18

❖ Memorandums signed between WATC and others : WATC signed two important agreements during 2010. The first one was on the “*Enhancement of the Participation of Women in Decision Making*”, and the second one was on “*The Participation of Women on the Reconstruction of Gaza*”. Both memorandums were signed by all political parties during a conference for each one. This is a very important development on the relationship between WATC society, specially the political parties. Those memorandums will have an effect on the women who aspire to run for elections, or at least to play a role on the public life of her community. Also, the importance of these memorandums is on the commitment the parties committed themselves to support and recognize the role that women have and the potentials and capability to impact and make a change in the society.

❖ Hosting Amal Forum to Combat Violence Against Women: since 2009 WATC is hosting Amal Forum to Combat Violence Against Women, and it is a forum composed by 6 women's and Human Rights' organizations. Amal forum supports the efforts and work of the six organizations in which relates to combating violence against women. Through WATC Amal forum receives all the necessary logistic and technical support. Amal Forum has been involved in the establishing of a safe house for women who suffer from domestic violence. WATC is member of the Consultative Board of the safe house along with another three organizations. The forum was asked by UN women, UNRWA and the Higher Commissioner for Human Rights to organize the event of the International Week to combat violence against women.



❖ Media in WATC:

Media is an strong and important component on WATC's work. The media department at WATC produces a weekly radio program (Against Silence) and a monthly women's newspaper (The Voice of Women) which distributes 23.000 – 24.000 copies. the newspaper has become an important resource on women's issues, as it presents reportages, articles, news and discuss up to date issues which are on the agenda of women's organizations. The newspaper was able to tackle issues which were the talk of the time such as honor killings, women's role in the coming elections, challenges faced by women in Jerusalem, sexual harassment in the place of work, the situation of Palestinian working women, and many other issues. During 2010 (276.000) copies were distributed. A summary of each one of the 12 issues (numbers) is available for more details.

As for the radio program, it aired 48 times, and each time was for 45 minutes. There are many modules, and issues taken during the radio program. As for example, issues concerning the role of women in legal reforms, the elections, education, the rights to work, women's role in culture and arts, honor killings, the impact of the Israeli violations of women and the family, and more of the issues that are of concern for women, the society and civil society in general. The radio program is well known for daring ask questions to decision makers and responsible people and to critique when there is need, also for its braveness to raise important subjects.

In addition to the newspaper and the radio program, every project and program in WATC has a media component and is conducted by the media department. WATC's activities are well covered in local media, on the radio, TV and written media, as it is known to the media field for its distinctive activities, the number of participants and the themes taken, as well for its credibility. WATC has received many requests to train journalists, and the trainings done on this regard are seen and

“the number of cameras and media people in WATC's activities is higher than the cameras and journalists found for any Minister speech”. Quoting a journalist on this matter. Samples of WATC's appearance on the media are available upon request, as well as more details on the media program and any other program.

❖ Staff of WATC

The staff of WATC are considered among other women organizations and civil society organizations generally as able to make change happen. They are well known as trainers and capacity builders on many issues and are asked to support other organizations in their activities. The staff on the field are also considered as knowledgeable resources and are highly valued by all the community, society at large and those who work and experience working with them. They are resourceful, have experience and are able to make use of their capacities to support and empower the women and the organizations they work with. .



ANNEX 1:

List of locations reached by WATC, noting that many of them are under what's known as area C, which is under the full legislation of the Israeli occupation, as well as remote areas, and areas near the wall.

DISTRIC	LOCATION
Nablus	Balata Refugee Camp Talfit village / Hawara, Beta, Jammai'n, Doma, Bet Eba, AL Naqoura, Burin, East Luban, Sebastia,AL Kwasen , Askar camp, Balatah camp, jabaa, Nablus City, Tel village
Tulkarem	Illar village / Seda village / Tulkarm camp, Nour Al Shams Refugees Camp, Thinnaba, Kafr El-Gamal, Balaa, Kufur Labad, Beit leed, Kaffen, Artaah, Atteel, Anaba, Shofa, Rameen, Kofr Al Roman, Naslet Issa, Alar, Saida, Dear Al Ghsoon, Erthah, Faroun, Baka Al sharkia,
Jenin	Faqua village / al-Yamun village / Ya' abad village / Araba village / Mirka, sirees, Maythaloan, Kufr Ra'l, Kufr Dan, Anin, Rummana, Al Mughaiir, Ya'bad, Birqeen, Qabatya, Silet Althaher, Al Zababdeh, AL Taybeh, Faqu'a, Al Jalameh, Zbouba, silet Alharthieh, Ajeh, Jenin Refugee Camp, Deir Ghazaleh, Fahmeh, Qararah, Jalboun, Arbouni, Raba, AL Jdeideh, Deir abu Deif, Beit Qad, Tayyasir, Sir, AL Mosalieh, al Fondoqomiah, Jab'a, At'ank, al Ymoon, Jalqamous, Al Zawe, Dahiat Sahah Al Keir , Berkin, Al Hai Al Sharki, Arana, AL Mutul, Um Al tout , Hai AL Basateen
Qalqilya	Hijeh village / Kufr Laqef / Jayous, Kufor Qadom, Izbet alash village,
Salfit	Kufr al-Deek /
Gaza	Al-Maghazi Refugees Camp / Beit Hanun city / Rafah city / al-Nuseirat Refugees Camp / Gaza city, Khanyounis, Beit Lahia, al-Jabalya camp, Camp Nuseirat, Al Mghraga, Hassani, Jabali country, Deir al-Balah, AL Daraj, Al Zituna, AL Sabra, AL Rimal, Al Sheikh Ridwan, Al Sheikh, deir Albalah, Al Mashala, Al Bassa, Al Maghazi, Al Breej, Ajleen, Al Nusairaat, Tal assultan, Al Shabora, Al QassamShurrab, al Aqqad, Al Maslaakh, Al Maghazi Camp, wadi al Salqa, Al Qararah, A'basan, Khaza'a, Al Mouase,



Jericho	Al-Nasaryiah village / al-Ouja / Aqba Jaber Camp, AL Auja Al-Fasayel
Ramallah	Kobar village / al-Jalazoun Refugees Camp / Qalandya Refugees Camp /Kufor Nima, Bil'in, Beit Ur Al Tahta, Tira, Ein Yabrud, Red Khan, AL Berah, Deir Dibwan, Jaffna, Aboud, Deir Ghassana, Beit Rima, Kafr El-Ain, Al Am'ari refugees camp, ALJanyah, Beit Sira, Beit Ur al-Fawqa, Senjil, Silwad, Birzeit Town, Kufur Aqab village, Jalazoun Refugees Camp, RasKarkar, Qarawa Bany Zaid, Mazaree Alnobane, Safa, Almzraa Al gharbia, Kobar, Qalndia, Deir Ammar refugees camp, Qebia
Khaleel – Hebron	Beit Ula village / Kharas / Yatta Beit Fajar, Bani Na'im, Beit Jan, Seir, Arroub, Deir samet, Semiya, Al Sreef, Jabalia, Beit Lahya, Beit Hanoun, Al Rehiay, Al Burj, Beit mersem, Deir razeh, hadab al fawwer, Al Carmel, khalat Al mayeh, Al Ramadeen, hadab al Alaqah, Mirzab, Beit Ula, Yatta, Dura, Bani Na'im, beit Khel, Erreihieh, Sakah, Al Majad, Raboud, Mnaizel, Shwaikah, Sosya, Beit Awwa, Ennab Alsaghira, Zeef, Al rofaieh Deiret , Khalet Saleh, Beit Al Rloush Al fouka, Kelat Saleh, Al Sorah, Um Al Safah, Arab Roan, saier, Al Shoukh, Beit Anon, Kharasha, Tafooh, Halhol, Beit Kahel, Ithna
Bethlehem and Beit Jalah	Al Ebidia, Ta'amreh, Tekoa, Al_husasn, Husan, Wadi Virgin Rahal, Dheisheh refugee camp, Beit Jalam Al tabaka, Bateer , AlKhader, Dar Salah, Betteer, Hosan, Jorat al Sham'a, Um salamona, Marah rabah, Wad al Neeis, Thabra, Nahalem,Wadi fokeen, Dar Rahal, Atqo'a, Al Jaba', Fajar AlDhaisheh refugee camp, Beitsahour
Jerusalem	the city of Jerusalem, the old city, Shu'fat, Shu'fat Camp, Hizma, Anata, Eizariyyah, al Ram, Biet Hanena, Sho'fat, Al Shekh Jarah, Wadi Al Joz, Al Tour, Az'ayem, Selwad, Ras Al "amoud, TI tory, Beit Safafa, Sour Baher, Jabal Al Mokaber, AL A'saryah, "anata, Dahet al Salam, Hezma, Makhmas, jaba', Bedo, Beit A'nan, Al Nabe Samuel, Qatana,



Annex 2:

Membership of WATC in coalitions and Forums

- The Coalition to Reform the Personal Status Law (Family Law)
- The Coalition to Reform the Penal Code
- The Educational Coalition for the Right to Education
- *MADA* – The Coalition for the Right of Expression (formed by Media Professionals)
- The *MUNTADA* a Coalition to Combat Violence Against Women (West Bank)
- *AMAL* a Coalition to combat Violence Against Women (Gaza) and WATC is hosting it